



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 6, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

On June 18, 2007, Supervisor Burke asked the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back on the consolidation of the Adult Protective Services (APS) programs currently within the departments of Community and Senior Services (CSS) and Consumer Affairs (DCA). We were asked to determine which department is the proper location for the APS program and where the money is being allocated.

Background

The CSS Adult Protective Services program is a \$26.3 million State mandated program. This program investigates situations involving elders (65 or older) and dependent adults (18 to 64 and physically or mentally impaired) who are reported to be endangered by physical, sexual or financial abuse; isolation; neglect; or self-neglect. CSS utilizes APS social workers to initiate contact with the abused, neglected or exploited person to investigate and assess the situation. If the client is abused, exploited or neglected, and is willing to cooperate, the social worker identifies and arranges services to reduce or eliminate the endangerment. The social worker oversees the creation of a support system by coordinating the efforts of family and friends with outside agencies such as the local senior center, law enforcement agency, the Alzheimer's Association, or DCA.

CSS currently has a \$0.2 million agreement with DCA to investigate elder financial fraud, provide education and outreach services to seniors, and provide consultation and training services to APS social workers. The agreement funds two full-time DCA staff members to provide fraud prevention and education services to elder and dependent adult clients referred by APS social workers, including problem assessment, counseling, complaint investigation and mediation services. This DCA APS-Fraud Protection Program also conducts educational forums throughout the County to teach seniors and dependent adults how to identify and prevent consumer and real estate fraud, report fraud and get assistance, identify and access available resources.

Program Funding

Most of the County's \$26.3 million APS funding comes from the State General Fund and the California Department of Social Services - County Services Block Grant (CSBG).

In addition, as we previously reported, as part of FY 2007-08 State Budget process, the Legislature approved a proposal to augment the APS Program by \$12 million Statewide which would have resulted in an estimated \$3.1 million increase for the County's APS Program. However, on Friday, August 24, 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto authority to eliminate the proposed \$12 million augmentation. The Governor indicated that the elimination of the APS augmentation was necessary for the State to build a prudent budget reserve in light of uncertainties in revenues and spending. Therefore, as a result of the Governor's action, the County will not receive additional funding for this program for FY 2007-08.

Conclusion

We have found that both the CSS and DCA programs are providing vital services to the County's most vulnerable constituents. Although both programs serve the same population, services provided complement, not duplicate, each other. The two departments have worked collaboratively for more than nine years to allocate their respective resources and expertise to ensure the protection and well-being of senior and dependent adults. We highly recommend that both programs remain within their respective departments.

The CEO will continue to work closely with CSS and DCA to explore other funding sources to address DCA's unmet critical needs to adequately fund its APS Fraud Protection Program in order to provide these vital services for seniors.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Rosemary Gutierrez at (213) 974-0564 or email at rgutierrez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF: SRH:BY
GP:RMG:lbm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director, Department of Community and Senior Services
Director, Department of Consumer Affairs